



## **Leapfrog After School Club Ltd.**

Inspection report for early years provision

<b>Unique Reference Number</b>	EY315354
<b>Inspection date</b>	17 May 2006
<b>Inspector</b>	Fiona Sapler

<b>Setting Address</b>	Downshall Junior School, Meads Lane, Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex, IG3 8UG
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<b>Registered person</b>	Leapfrog After School Club Ltd.
<b>Type of inspection</b>	Childcare
<b>Type of care</b>	Out of School care

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Leapfrog After School Club Limited is privately run and was registered in 2005. It operates at Downshall Junior School, in Seven Kings, in the London Borough of Redbridge and serves the local primary schools and community. The children who attend the after school club are escorted from the schools by staff members and also have access to an associated provision that is run in an adjacent church hall. The children attending the holiday playscheme are dropped off and collected by their parents/carers.

The after school club is registered to care for 35 children from four years to under

eight years at any one time. There are currently 30 children on roll.

The after school club operates from 15:00 to 18:30 during term time on Mondays to Fridays, and the playscheme from 07:45 to 18:00 during school holidays.

The after school club employs three members of staff. All staff have relevant qualifications to NVQ level 2 or 3.

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION**

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is good.

Children know that washing their hands after going to the toilet and before eating helps prevent the spread of germs and they all go directly to wash their hands, on arrival at the club before queuing up for their snack. They receive good support to develop an understanding of good hygiene at other times when, for example, they wash their hands before making a fruit salad and are told why they must not lick their fingers during the activity.

Children who are infectious do not attend thus preventing the spread of contagious ailments.

Parents give prior written consent to administer medication, and accurate records are maintained, which ensures children receive the correct dosage according to their needs. All staff hold a current first aid certificate so they are able to provide appropriate care if there is an accident.

Children enjoy a worthwhile range of activities, which help to promote their good health and develop their physical skills. There are regular opportunities for them to play outside in the playground where they have plenty of space to run around and access to climbing equipment. They are also able to participate in a variety of sports clubs such as football and netball.

Children's fine motor skills are developing well. They are competent when selecting and using small equipment such as scissors, glue sticks and paintbrushes and when they make intricate patterns with mosaic tiles on plant pots.

Children learn about healthy eating through a healthy eating project when they gain an understanding of the basic food groups and the importance of a balanced diet. They learn that fruit is good for them when they prepare their own fruit salad and are encouraged to eat fruit at snack time.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is good.

The children benefit from being cared for in a warm and welcoming environment. They have plenty of space to play and move around freely as they have access to an

adjacent setting, run by the same provider, in a large church hall.

Children have easy and safe access to a broad range of toys and resources appropriate for their ages. Good staff interactions, using gentle reminders and instructions, help develop children's awareness of safety during activities, for example, when they are using knives to cut the fruit.

Children are protected from potential hazards because staff are vigilant and use comprehensive risk assessments. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own safety because they are asked to report any potential hazards to a member of staff.

Staff deployment is very effective and guarantees children are well-supervised and safe at all times. Clearly planned systems ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities when escorting children to and from school, to and from this setting, during the sessions, and on outings. Children are unable to leave the premises, without a suitable adult, because effective security that means unwanted visitors are prevented from gaining access.

Children and staff practice the emergency evacuation procedures on a monthly basis. This helps children become familiar with the routine in the event of an emergency. The drills are evaluated to identify any weaknesses and are discussed with the children so they are aware of the importance of these procedures.

The outdoor play area is safe for children to enjoy fresh air and play with good quality equipment that is suitable for their ages and needs.

The children's wellbeing is supported because staff have a good understanding of child protection issues and know how to proceed if they have concerns about a child in their care.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is good.

Children are able to independently choose from a good range of activities that are stimulating and well balanced. The environment is informal and allows the children time to relax and enjoy their time after school or in the holidays. They gain much from being together. Children communicate well with each other, and with members of staff, and develop good relationships.

The children benefit from enjoyable and educational outings during the holiday play scheme to, for instance, Bethnal Green Toy museum and the farm, and welcome visitors to the group such as police and fire officers who talk about their work and how the children can keep themselves safe.

Children are encouraged to use their imagination and express their ideas in a variety of different ways, such as painting Olympic figures, decorating pots, gardening in tubs, making cards and their creative skills are developing through activities such as arts and crafts, tile painting, role-play and dressing up.

Children are interested in the activities available and spend time concentrating on them. They understand the need to share when they play pool together and take turns at activities such as table football.

Children have opportunities to develop in a variety of areas when they play chess, and learn footballing and netballing skills with qualified coaches. This also helps build their self esteem and confidence.

### **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is good.

Children learn about the world around them as they celebrate a variety of festivals and take part in a range of interesting activities that introduce them to other cultures.

The club has lots of experience of working with children with learning difficulties and all children are encouraged to participate in the activities provided. The club works with the children's school and other professionals to ensure children are provided with the most appropriate care and will adapt activities and outings if necessary. This ensures that all children have equal opportunities to maximise their enjoyment and potential.

Children benefit from lots of praise and encouragement and from some basic ground rules that are consistently applied. Older children help in the setting of the ground rules which helps them learn to negotiate with others and take responsibility for their own behaviour. Children clearly understand the rules of the setting and are developing an understanding of right and wrong. They respond effectively to any guidance, and praise, because staff manage their behaviour calmly and patiently.

Relationships with parents are friendly and supportive and parents feel welcome. A range of systems to inform parents about the club, for example, newsletters, handbooks, questionnaires and regular informal discussions, encourages parents to become involved in their child's care.

### **Organisation**

The organisation is good.

The setting is privately run, and managed, by an experienced provider. All children receive good support from a staff group that enjoy their company and know them well helping them feel secure and confident.

Children are warmly welcomed at the associated registration, where they have a snack and begin their play. During the session they are able to choose from a variety of activities, some of which take place in this provision. The children's transition from one setting to the other is well organised and risk assessed to ensure their safety. Staff are deployed effectively to provide a high level of supervision. The playground, shared by both registrations, is used for outdoor play and structured football and netball training to provide children with the benefits of fresh air and exercise. The outdoor space is fully utilised for a wider range of activities during the holiday

schemes.

There are effective recruitment procedures in place. This means that suitable, experienced and qualified persons look after children. Induction training ensures staff understand the comprehensive range of policies and procedures so they can contribute to the safety and welfare of the children. There are annual appraisals that identify training needs and staff are encouraged to enrol on relevant courses to ensure the information they have is up to date and relevant. Staff hold regular meetings to discuss planning and any other relevant issues to promote continuity of care and to ensure staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities. Staff work well as a team and clear communication and guidance allows them to provide a stimulating well-balanced programme.

All documentation required for the safe and effective management of the club is in place. Registers are maintained well, however they do not include times of arrival and departure to fully record the children's attendance in case of an incident or emergency. Overall, the setting meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides.

### **Improvements since the last inspection**

Not applicable.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

There are no complaints to report.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

## **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

### **The quality and standards of the care**

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure registers record times of arrival and departure for all children

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Building better childcare: Compliments and concerns about inspectors' judgements* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)